

February 23th 2015
Volume 1, Issue 1

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS

2015 TOWN MEETING NEWSLETTER

Holderness Town Office (603) 968-2145

Special Interest Articles:

- Polls are open
March 10th
10:00am to
7:00pm at Town
Hall
- Visit
www.holderness-nh.gov for
election and
town meeting
information
- Volunteers
needed for land
use boards

Individual Highlights:

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FY 16 Town Operating Budget Down Slightly

The members of the Holderness Select Board and Budget Committee have announced that despite some significant challenges with some uncontrollable costs, increases in electricity and the NH Retirement System, the proposed FY 16 budget is down slightly over FY15. The actual dollar decrease is \$8,700 for a total proposed budget of \$2,275,000. The FY16 proposed budget was

aided greatly by a significant decrease in the employee health insurance premiums which is a little over \$17,000! This decrease helped offset increases in other departments. Both Select Board and Budget Committee members agreed the proposed budget was well prepared and reasonable. A copy of the proposed FY16 municipal budget is available at the town office

or on the Town's website:
www.holderness-nh.gov.



ELECTIONS MARCH 10TH 10:00am – 7:00pm at TOWN HALL

This year's ballot will have voters electing one Select Board member for a three year term. John Woodie Laverack is seeking his third three year term on the board. Woodie is running unopposed. The following are all incumbents seeking reelection: Bonnie Hunt as a Trustee of Trust Funds, Fire Ward Randy Eastman, Victor Currier and Ted Vansant as

Library Trustee. There are no candidates on the ballot for a six year term for supervisor of the checklist. Voters will also see six questions regarding changes to the Town's zoning ordinance which are recommended by the Planning Board. There are no petition articles this year. At the polls on March 10th voters will also be voting on matters concerning the

members to the Holderness Central School Board and the Pemi Baker Regional School District.

VOTERS TO CONSIDER 10 WARRANT ARTICLES ON MARCH 11TH



"Members of the Energy Committee are very excited about the possibility of Holderness supporting renewable energy as a community" says Larry Spencer committee co-chair



The following articles appear on the 2015 Town Warrant: Article 3: To accept reports of Town Officers and Committees; Article 4: The operating budget of \$2,275,000.00 discussed on page one; Article 5: Annual contributions to 15 existing capital reserve funds for a total of \$375,000, Article 6: Seeks approval for \$150,000 in road reconstruction work; \$25,000 for property revaluation; \$11,000 for a new thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department for a total amount of \$186,000.

Article 7: To fund a biology study of conservation land located on Smith Road for \$3,500. Article 8: To create a new expendable trust fund for payment of earned leave time to employees at separation from town employment for \$15,000. Article 9: To create a new capital reserve fund to be used to fund 50% of the expansion of cable TV/broadband service to unserved areas on E. Holderness Rd. and to place \$12,000 in said fund. Article 10: To authorize \$280,000 in improvements to the

public safety building. (See pg. 4) Article 11: Is to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to compensate a fund manager from interest. Article 12: To authorize the Select Board to enter into a long term lease for a small site on town owned property on E. Holderness Rd. for a solar array for electricity. (See info below) Articles 6,7,8,9 and 10 if approved will all be funded from either a capital reserve funds (CRF) or from the year end fund balance as of 06/30/15.

Energy Committee & Select Board Support Leasing Town Property for Possible Solar Array on E. Holderness Rd.

Both the Holderness Energy Committee and Select Board support a proposal to lease a small portion of town property located on E. Holderness Rd. opposite Roy's Auto Wrecking for a new solar energy project. This land was purchased several years ago when the Town was facing capping the former Town landfill and building a new transfer station. A change in the law avoided the need to

cap the landfill and the move to the E. Holderness Rd. location. The land has been unused since it was purchased. One proposal being offered is to lease about 1/3 of the land for a solar array that would generate an amount of electricity equal to the Town's total annual use. The Town would have no investment in the building or operating of the array and would receive a small annual lease payment for

the land. Details of the possible project are not yet finalized and the Select Board is only requesting approval to lease the land if an acceptable agreement in the best interest of the Town can be reached. If successful, Holderness would be one of the first communities in NH to generate its own renewable energy equal to its consumption!

Public Safety Building Improvements Proposed for 2015

One of this year's warrant articles asks voters to authorize the construction of a small addition to the rear of the public safety building to provide for a "sally port" or a garage area for police vehicles and the replacement of the roof shingles on the entire building. Both projects have been part of the Town's long term capital plan for several years and are unanimously supported by the Select Board and Budget Committee.

Police Chief Jake Patridge points out that the sally port will be a very important addition to the department's operations by providing a safer environment for his officers to manage prisoners and a secure storage area for police vehicles and equipment especially during winter months and off duty hours. This addition will also provide some much needed work area for cleaning and maintaining firearms etc. The roof shingle replacement is necessary this year as

significant leaks developed last summer. The estimated cost of the addition is \$174,000; the roof is \$88,000 and a contingency of \$18,000. These estimates also include architectural, engineering fees and bid specifications. If approved, the project will go out to bid in July for construction in the fall. The project funding will come from the government buildings CRF (\$80,000) and fund balance \$200,000.



Capital Reserve Funds - Planning for the Future.....It Pays!

For the past several years Holderness has carefully salted away, by way of contributions to several capital reserve funds, monies that will be used for future purchases of capital equipment or capital projects. This method of funding capital items is one of three used by cities and towns. The other two methods are "pay as you go", where you simply put your project funding on the tax rate when it's needed, or borrow the funds and the

cost is spread over a portion of the items useful life. For some capital items Holderness uses a combination of capital reserve funds and borrowing when the amount is significant and the useful life is 10 years or longer. The pay as you go method creates large swings up and down in the tax rate and the borrowing method adds additional cost depending on the current rates of interest being charged. For this reason Holderness uses

the capital reserve method and determines the amount to be deposited in an account each year by referring to current capital replacement plan. This year we are proposing two new reserve funds to address the future expense of post-employment benefit costs for our long term employees and to support the extension of cable TV and broadband service to portions of E. Holderness Rd.

"The pay as you go" method creates large swings up and down in tax rates and interest from borrowing increases capital costs"

So What is the Fund Balance Policy?

"As of 06/30/14 our unassigned fund balance is \$1,011,831 or approximately 10.6% of expenditures"

The purpose of a fund balance policy is to establish a key element of the financial stability of the Town by setting guidelines for fund balance.

Unassigned Fund Balance is an important measure of economic stability. It is essential that the Town maintain adequate levels of unassigned fund balance to mitigate financial risks that can

occur from unforeseen revenue fluctuations, unanticipated expenditures, emergencies, and similar circumstances. The fund balance also provides cash flow liquidity for the Town's general operations. The portion of the fund balance that the Select Board utilizes to help with some capital purchases and reducing

the tax rate is the Unassigned Fund Balance. This amount is not obligated or specifically designated and is available for any purpose. This portion of the fund balance is typically a result of excess budget revenue and budgeted expenditures that are not spent. As of 06/30/14 our unassigned fund balance is \$1,011,831 or 10.6% of expenditures.

Select Board's Call for Volunteers

"Even if you serve just one term we know it will be a wonderful learning and rewarding experience"

Our community finds its self in need when it comes to our two land use boards; the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board. As volunteers serve and then leave these boards we are finding it more and more difficult to fill vacancies. Community volunteerism

is an extremely important part of local government and we are calling out to those citizens who haven't served in the past to please consider submitting your application to do so. Even if you only serve one term we know it will be a wonderful learning and

rewarding experience. Please contact the town office for the volunteer guidelines and an application or download them from our Town website today!

REMEMBER EVERY VOTE COUNTS!



